Depot Town Rag

October Meetings
for the good of the block:

The Foundation
Thur. 10/2. 8pm, Caboose

Fall Fair
Sat. 10/4, Farmers' Market

The Association
Thur. 10/16, 7:30pm, Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

APOSTROPHIES HARVESTED AGAIN?

Every so often we have to make this point. It seems some of the writers for the dailies in Our Town must have been looking out the window in their pre-journalism school days and missed the finer points of punctuating plural-possessives.

One farmer. Two farmers. Belonging to one farmer = the farmer's tractor. Belonging to several farmers = the farmers' families. One city = Ypsilanti (Are there two Ypsilantis? More? Show them to us on a map.) Belonging to that city = Ypsilanti's Market. Several producers at the Market = Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market. Now, if you want to speak of those things which belong to the City's market, you'd say, "Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market's hours."

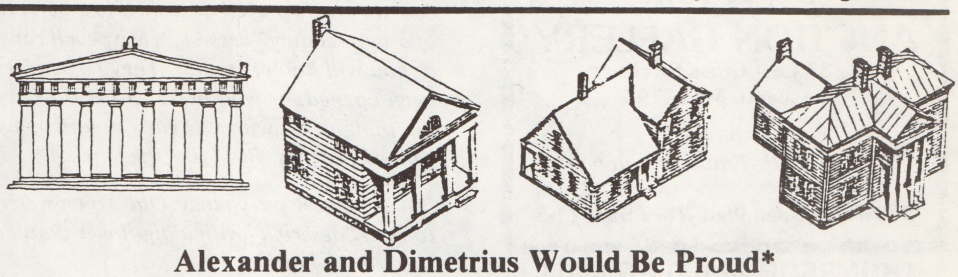
Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market
in historic Depot Town

FALL FAIR

Saturday, October 4th
7am - 3pm

Farm-Fresh Fall Harvests
Old-Fashioned Steam & Gas Engines
Apple Strudel Demonstration
Sam Scarecrow & Family Dress-up
Art, Craft & Gift Items
The Great Cider Barrel
Home-made Breads & Biscuits
How Honey is Harvested
Canning Display
Old-Time Music Sing-Along
Story-Telling for Kids
Button-Making for Kids
Saluting the Michigan Apple
Freighthouse Coffeeshop

. . .at the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market
in Historic Depot Town



Alexander and Dimetrius Would Be Proud*

WE'RE 'GREEK TOWN,' TOO!

When the Greek Revival movement swept across America in the early 1800's, patriots so admired the early democratic ideals of Greece, that, not only our governmental buildings followed that Classical design, but so did the design of our 'vernacular' buildings. Farmhouses, corn cribs, churches and barns were built in the clean, uncluttered and dignified style of the Parthenon and its comtemporaries.

The Greek Revival style also manifested itself in the names of new towns growing across the prairie. New York settlers established Albany, Troy, Syracuse, Palmyra and Attica, then dug a canal and headed west. They poled their flat-bottomed canal boats across Lake Erie and as far as they could up the rivers Maumee, Huron, Rouge, and Clinton. When they could pole no farther they established more towns; this time naming many of them after the New York towns which were named after Greek cities and states. Some of them leap-frogged and went clear back to those Mediterranean shores for their names.

The Greek Revival movement is easily traced across the map of Michigan as we borrowed from the times of Aristotle and Socrates and platted Albion, Athens, Atlanta, Attica, Cassopolis, Delhi Mills, Delta Center, Delta Mills, Elmira, Eureka, Fredonia, Helena, Hesperia, Ionia, Ithaca, Juniper, Lake Odessa, Leonidas, Livonia, Mancelona, Medina, Memphis, Morenci, Palmyra, Pamona, Samaria, Saranac, Sigma, Sparta, Troy, Utica and Westphalia, to alphabetize but a few with Greek origins.

Some of the more spectacular appelations occurred further west when they mounted the hillier towns and created Minneapolis and Indianapolis, in fond memory of the Acropolis and other hill-townopoli.

Depot Town, of course, is often compared to Detroit's Greek Town, another pocket of popularity too busy to find a whole Greek name for itself. Detroit's famous Greek Town, however, boasts many authentic Greek names on the signboards of it's ethnic restaurants which suggests that Depot Town would do well to post the Kornilakis name proudly (Old Town Restaurant). Another affinity we share with Detroit is that many of our ethnic names sound very much like the trains that crash through our own district. Merge them with some of the Hamtramck titles and you don't need any vowels, at all.

Although the majority of Depot Town's buildings are of the Italianate architectural style, fully half of the private homes in Depot Town are of the Greek Revival mode. First, is the oldest frame house in Ypsilanti, according to neighborhood lore--the Mark Norris house just north of the Depot on River Street. The other three are what local historians call the 'officers' quarters' just across the street adjacent to the Thompson Block. No one ever seems to notice the fourth house in this series, however, just east of the Thompson Block, on Cross Street.

Today's preservation ethnic has caused many of these older American towns to create still another Greek Revival. It's been a revival of a revival and, just like a Baptist tent revival meeting, our faith is renewed.

* Alexander and Dimetrius Ypsilanti, heroes of the Greek War for Independence. Their name was chosen for what has turned out to be one of the loveliest Greek Revival cities of them all -Ypsilanti!

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IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

More Malarkey from "The Professor"

IS DEPOT TOWN A DEPOSITORY OF ECLECTIC COLLECTIONS?

Our recent breakfasting at the Old Town Restaurant led us to the discovery of a collection (an Eclectic one at that) of beer bottles. This collection rivals my own collection of peach cans. The cans (empty, of course) are displayed on a shelf just in front of a sign reading "dessert." (My peach cans, as you will know, are full. They have never been opened, or will they ever be, if I have anything to do with it. I can't countenance canned peaches. But I like the labels.)

I suggest we change Old Town's sign to read "deserted" with a big finger pointed toward the bottle.

I've never seen anything like it. Why, people in this town collect anything. There's even one guy who comes in to breakfast every day in an ancient Hudson pick-up truck and I hear tell that he has a whole garage full of Hudson automobiles up the street.

One lady paid over two hundred dollars for a pair of Kewpie Doll salt shakers here, the other day! I figure that must be nearly a hundred dollars apiece -- and there wasn't even any indication that there was salt or pepper in them! It's a funny world, isn't it?

Why don't you solicit you readers to tell what it is they collect -- and why? I don't know if I'd go across the street to see them, but I'd like to read about them in your Rag.

-your old friend in the neighborhood,
Professor Malarky, Eclectic Engineer

(Consider yourselves solicited. -ed.)

THE BEER FACTS:

'Put a head on it!" was a quote from the knowledgable beer drinker, if he or she knew anything about releasing the taste (carbonation) from the brewed hops. And when Depot Town Association volunteers met the week before Heritage Festival with Marshall Howrigan, of the Budwieser Company, they learned that that little bit of foam on top is not only good for the taste -- it's also food for the business.

Aside from putting a little less beer in the glass, the concept of putting half an inch of white foam at the top of a cold glass of beer also releases carbonation and keeps the drinker from burping it all up later on. Some beer afficianadoes say that drinking 'unreleased' beer causes quick intoxication. And a foam-less glass of beer looks 'flat', they say. Even if it wasn't for taste or profit, it's prettier.

Don't let the profit motive scare you. If DTA rolls out enough barrels of Bud we will see the Anheuser Busch Clydesdale horses in next year's Heritage Parade. Why, that's enough to make the staunchest martini drinker switch to beer!

Watch for the Budweiser brand of brew at all of next year's DTA/WEMU jazz events.

(Editor's note: we must be getting better at it. DTA's Heritage Festival Beer tent offset the cost of the prizes and expenses for Heritage Jazz Competition by making $1,100 each for DTA, WEMU and the Heritage Festival.)

THANKS FROM THE MARKET COFFEE SHOP: Estella Sutherland sends her thanks to all the helpers, vendors and friends for their cards and concerns during her recent recuperation from an eye operation. She's back at her counter, now, sharp as ever.

The Cricket Box
a specialty gift & card shop
.... featuring Sunrise & Green Tiger Press cards, Gwen Frostic Stationary, Dakin animals, dolls, stoneware, crystal, antiques, Bill Coleman photography, and more ....
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230,000 Attend Heritage Festival?

"OK, now, we're going to try to get an accurate count this year. Everybody hold still. One, two, three, four, five, . . Oh! Somebody moved. I'll have to start over. Now don't anybody move this time."

"Here we go again. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Oh! Didn't I count you the first time? Now, wait a minute. We've got to get an accurate count here!"

That's probably not how they count the hundreds and hundreds of people at the August Heritage Festival in Depot Town, Frog Island and Riverside Park, but there are some things we're sure of. There were real clear counts on the following items and here they are:

How many Hudson Club members had dinner at Haab's on August 24?
44.

How long was the Artrain?
365 feet.

How many ran this year's Great Train Race on Sunday morning?
204.

Where was the farthest away runner from?
West Germany.

How many antique engines were in the Early Engine Expo?
36

How many feet of track in the Model Railroad Show?
650.

How many piano rolls did Professor Malarky play over Heritage Fest?
25 different rolls, 36 songs, ten times each!

What was his most frequently asked question?
"How much did that piano cost?" (1,237 times)

How many chairs in the Jazz tent?
500. Standing room only on Saturday night for an estimated 1500.

How many people saw the 1986 Heritage Parade?
Bill Durant says they were sixteen people deep in the downtown district and estimated 60,000 people saw the parade in person.

How many barrels of beer were poured at the Jazz/Beer Tent?
60

What was the most complex quilt in the show?
924 pieces not counting border and back. Over 30,000 stitches.

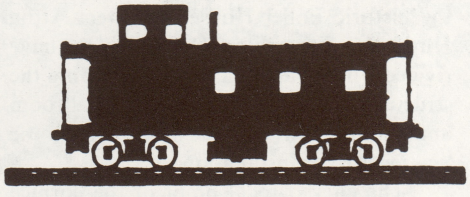
How many Artrain brochures were handed out?
5000.

How many Depot Town directories were handed out?
6550.

How many people toured the Michigan Artrain?
3678 during the whole Heritage Festival/-five-day visit. 303 on Wednesday, 266 on Thursday, 856 on Friday, 1251 on Saturday, 1002 on Sunday.

What is the largest number of people ever to go through the Artrain in one day?
2500 in Kokomo, Indiana in 1981. They were lined up for three blocks and ran right through without the slide show.

When does the planning begin for next year's Heritage Festival?
Follow-up session will happen in September. New Festival planning committee starts meeting on Thursdays in January.



D.T.A. AUGUST 21, 1986

(August's minutes are printed here, due to the early publication of September's issue for Heritage Festival.)

PREVIOUS MINUTES CORRECTED — Heritage Festival does not pay for Jazz Tent. All tents are ordered together for group discount.

S.O.S. Casino Proposal - Bob Thorne proposed DTA sponsor a Casino as a fund-raiser for S.O.S. in conjunction with Victorian Holidays. Bonnie Rosen-Fine, Jerry Meadows, Gary McKeever will study and propose at next meeting. McKeever will convene the meeting with S.O.S.

Treasury - Total - $7,688.27.

General Fund	2513.55
Rag	(72.70)
Jazz	5630.95
Caboose	15.00
Halloween	34.78
Billboard	(637.24)
Boomer Days	203.00

Outstanding accounts - Frog Island nut sales, Ron Brooks' ticket sponsorship, and the Ark Coffeehouse.

Shall the current treasurer run for a third term as prohibited by the constitution? A special provision would have to be made for either treasurer or president to continue for a third term.

Eric Ward suggests closing current accounts and beginning anew so as to justify bank's monthly account which always shows DTA ahead.

Signage - New billboard installed on Follett House today at a cost of $1,100. Lighting will be considered next at a cost of approximately $3000.

State Directional signs throughout the City have been approved and on work order since last spring.

Jazz Banner is complete at a cost of $405.00

Entry signs are out for bid approval by September meeting.

September Quarterly Meeting - September 18, 8:00pm in the Farmers' Market Coffee Shop. Tea and cookies will accompany the annual election of DTA officers. The Sesquicentennial promotion film will be shown. DTA board and officers will meet at 7:30pm in the Caboose.

Heritage Festival - Quilts are up. Jazz tent is ready. Artrain has been open for two days. First early engines are in place. Great Train Race has excellent media coverage due to Olympic contestants entered.

Parking - City 'still studying' north side alley problems. Reports will be requested.

Frog Island lot has been striped by DPW to allow double rows of north/south parking with short rows from the street. A great improvement.

Free festival parking is provided for employees and residents behind City Body during Heritage Festival.

Sesquicentennial Commission Executive Board has requested to use the Caboose and/or the Farmers' Market Coffee Shop for their meeting on Friday, September 5th. Frankenmuth's William Zehnder will chair the meeting. Arrangements will be made.

October DTA meeting will be at the McAuley Health Center conference room and will include a tour of the mental health facility - a most appropriate gesture at this time.

Caboose decor shows previous Festival and Jazz posters. Reimburse for cost of bulbs,

bulletin and chalk boards.

Nominating Committee will consist of Eric Ward and Carolyn McKeever to see who wants to run for the four offices. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the election meeting. Election notice will be given more than a month in advance via the September Rag.

Media - Channel 7 will cover the Great Train Race. WEMU will broadcast their morning show from the Jazz Tent. Shelton and Durant's video so impressed Budweiser that the Clydsdale team has been promised for 1987. The Center for Creative Studies seeks permission to tape DTA meetings for a project on group dynamics.

Beer supply - DTA has arranged with Marshall Howrigan of Jack Smith Distributors for beer for the Heritage Festival. O & W continues to support the Great Train Race.

Senator Lana Pollack fundraiser will be held in the Freight House on September 20. DTA will staff the bar and split the bar profits.

Brochure reprint - 10,000 at $700.00, distributed to Chamber of Commerce and local merchants. More are still available in the Caboose.

Best Yet Award to Al Shelton and Jeff Teachout for their excellent handling of preparation for Heritage Festival.

Adjourned at 9:50pm.

D.T.A. 18 September 1986

7:30 pm - Executive Board in the Caboose:
Minutes of previous meeting approved.
Treasury: $15,246.74 - Total

General	2,542.55
Rag	(16.70)
Jazz	12,934.42
Caboose	15.00
Hallowe'en	34.78
Billboard	(467.24)
Boomer Days	203.93

$150 transferred from the Boomer Days account to the General Fund.
$50 transferred from the General Fund to the Halloween account.
$10,000 in newly established account at bank.
Close old account as checks come in.

Articles of Incorporation report requires $10 check to State of Michigan following annual election.

Sales Tax Exemption papers are in order and will be filed with State.

Depot Town Engine Club will organize on 9/25 and may be included as a committee of DTA.

Signal Tower: City's Community Development Department has offered a matching grant to replicate the 1890 tower on the north/west corner of Cross and River Streets.

Election will need to see by-laws suspended if current officers are to run again. Whereupon we moved to the Freight House —

8:00 pm Quarterly Meeting and Annual Election:

Great Train Race enjoyed 217 runners and netted $450.

Jazz has $12,000 in account. Lana Pollack fundraiser is Saturday, September 20, featuring the J.C. Heard Orchestra. DTA volunteers will run the cash bar, splitting profits with the Pollack campaign committee.

Engine Club forms next Thursday in Caboose, will exhibit at Fall Fair and Domino's Farm.

Signal Tower: City Hall's Sue Dickenson made a matching grant available for the replication of the 1890's tower. We have the drawings, must get a contractor's estimate and permission from Amtrak to build on the original site. Investigate and report at October meeting.

Artrain saw nearly 4000 in attendance. Manager Joan Kreger sends great thanks to Depot Town entrepreneurs for the warm welcome.

Rosier Players may not return to Wiard's Orchards with their spectacular tent show. *Our Little Secret's* Paul Dornfeld suggests DTA soponsor them next year.

Hallowe'en Party will be chaired by *Vintage Passion's* Linda Williams on Friday, October 31st. Watch for on-street activity to be followed by free entertainment in the 'Fright House.' Better press coverage is expected.

Victorian Holiday sample brochure was circulated, hopes to run a week longer and include several weekend events. Planning committee will include Joe Wizauer (*Hon's Flowers),* Paul Dornfeld (*Our Little Secret),* Bonni Rosen-Fine, Linda French & Steve Gross (*Depot Exchange),* Linda Williams (Vintage Passion), Tom Dodd.

Mayor Murdock spoke on 1) the Signal Tower's significance and pledged the City's support in the grant, 2) the possible ressurection of the Depot Town Development Authority, 3) the EMU College of Business and it's possible implications for the whole City.

Annual Election: The by-laws were suspended to allow current officers to serve third terms. Bonni Rosen-Fine and Jerry Meadows withdrew their candidacies. There were no further nominations from the floor and a unanimous ballot was cast for the previous year's officers: President, Gary McKeever; Vice President, Jerry Meadows; Treasurer, Eric Ward; Secretary, Tom Dodd.

Merchants Committee still has $114 in Rosemary Lawson's account. Norm Lawson *(Grand Trunk, Ltd.)* will poll the block to see if there is a desire to reorganize in time for the Hallowe'en party.

Lawsons *(Grand Trunk, Ltd.)* were thanked for their help with space for the August Heritage Jazz Competition.

Meadows was thanked for his neighborliness during Heritage Fest rain.

Circle Michigan Tour saw thirty bus tour organizers start their seven-day tour in Depot Town, thanks to VCB's Valerie Franklin.

Michigan Sesquicentennial Film was shown by one of it's script writers, our Rag editor. It is available for community groups to aid in planning local celebrations for the state's one hundred and fiftieth birthday.

Rosen-Fine was thanked for her arrangements of tea and cookies at the Quarterly Meeting.

Adjourned

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Depot Town Rag

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:
A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.
The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Gary McKeever, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Best-Kept Secret Soon To Be Given Away

SIGNS OF THE TIMES - revisited

Directional signs: Signs directing auto traffic to Depot Town may soon be seen along the streets and main intersections of the City of Ypsilanti. Ypsilanti Police Department's Traffic Officer, Zirl Yek, met with State Highway officials over the Depot Town Association's proposal last winter and five of the eight suggested locations were approved. The project was put on a State work order last spring and there's no telling when we'll actually see them in place.

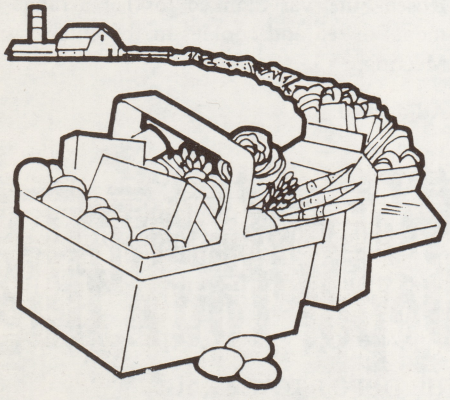
Although we pass such signs in other communities daily, they are taken for granted--but trying to get something put up where there was nothing before is an almost-impossible job. DTA's signage proposal has gone through two mayors, three city managers and ten City Councils, but Mary Steffe, of the City Planning Department, says this looks like the real thing this time around. DTA officers and committee members say they suspect the fact the district's turn-around always operated from an 'underdog mentality' may have something to do with the problems in seeking such official recognition. "After all," says Jerry Meadows, a long time activist for the Association, "The Manchester Chicken Broil is printed right on the Official city limits sign." Indeed, Ann Arbor's Kerrytown and Farmers' Market not only boast curbside directional signs, but they are lighted from the interior, as well.

Look for Ypsilanti's new signs directing the way to historic Depot Town to appear at the intersections Washtenaw/Hamilton, Washtenaw/Huron, Huron/Michigan, Huron/Cross and Michigan/River. Although they should look terribly official, we doubt anyone will mistake us for a State Park.

Perimeter signs: The City's response to DTA's proposal for signage highlighting the entrance to Depot Town was, "You pay for them, design them, get them painted, then erect them, maintain and landscape them." All the City plans to do is give their approval for the project. A DTA committee began work on that design project in August. The concept will be sent through the Building Department and HDC with great dispatch. Jazz maven, Carolyn McKeever, says, "All we need is approval of the placement and the design. No problem here!" It's the recent profits from 'all that Jazz down in Depot Town,' of course, that make such amenities a reality.

Home-base sign: A large painted billboard appeared on the west-facing wall of the Follett House the day before August's annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. Electric lighting will be installed at a later date. DTA has an estimate of $1100.00 for this expense and it has already been approved by the Building Department and the Historic District Commission. "Depot Town - Welcome" is the message painted on a large wood/paper sign board around a caboose logo familiar to readers of this Rag.

If the Depot Town Association has its way, this old neighborhood will soon be much easier to find. Watch out of that tour bus!



FARMERS MARKET FALL FAIR OCTOBER 4th

Celebrate the good fortune of our harvest season with the best Michigan produce in years. 'Pick Michigan' is the State slogan for the year, and this year's crop being trucked into the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market in Depot Town is superlative.

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In Historic Depot Town

Annie and Jim Back on The Block

Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing and James MacDonald Antiques now boast the newest wall in the oldest shop on the block --and their interior has been updated and repaired for their grand re-opening. They moved in for the three-day Heritage Fest, then back out so repairs could be completed.

Only a year after their extensive interior rehab the antiquers were stunned (but pleased) to see their damaged east wall removed and replaced by the building's owners. Doubly so, for Jim, since he also lived in the upstairs apartment.

Now the wall is almost done -- and the braces and beams which held up the splayed-open structure all summer were removed and their damage repaired. Watch for a grand, grand re-opening and welcome them back to the newest old place on the block.

Jim MacDonald's Antiques

Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing

29 East Cross • 481-0555

Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

The Wrath of Grapes

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is sponsoring the film, "The Wrath of Grapes," to be shown on October 15 at 7pm in the Freight House. The film portrays the international grape boycott which has begun in protest of the pesticide poisoning of farm workers. Sister Jean Schlicklin of the Detroit Farm Workers Ministry will be present to discuss the film and answer questions.

This representation is a part of a bi-monthly education serires sponsored by the Co-op. This month's meeting coincides with World Food Day, which is October 16, and the topic was chosen to draw attention to problems associated with mass food production.

For more information call the Ypsilanti Food Co-op at 483-1520 or stop by at 312 North River Street.

Eggs Milk Grains Produce Nuts Dried Fruits

Pasta Bread Juices Herbs Canned Goods Yogurt

Goasts Milk Tempeh Teas Spices Tofu Beans

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312 N. River 483-1520

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RAGTIME

Celebrating the Fall Harvest

DOWN IN DEPOT TOWN

Cornice Replaced

When a cornice in Detroit fell and killed a woman in the 1960's, city councils across the country legislated those elegant masonry crowns right off the top edges of most Nineteenth Century buildings. Only the all-wood examples remained, as seen atop Aubree's Saloon. Such charming old neighborhoods as Depot Town were stripped of their Victorian dignity and many districts covered their facades with tin and plastic to hide their embarassment.

This month the first cornice to be replicated in Depot Town has appeared on the historic Follet House. Architect Attila Huth and contractor Doug Dillon have rivaled Tino Wallenda's act by building the structure's segments in the top floor ballroom and sliding them out the window onto the 'scissor lift' for installation.

The curved focal point of the cornice gave the builders a very special problem to solve, since the original masons didn't measure the curve geometrically. "They just kept stacking up the bricks until they got the kind of curve they wanted," says Rex Richie, a member of the fabrication team.

Compare the new installation with the original - via the old photos on exhibit in the first floor of Aubree's Saloon. The Follett House will soon regain its former glory.

THERE'S A NEW

ITALIAN

IN DEPOT TOWN

PAPONETTI'S PASTA

Specializing in Homemade Italian Food & Pastries

YOUR HOUSE OR OURS (WE CATER, TOO)

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Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC

307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, MI

Phone: 483-1238

New Inside Looks Like 'Original'

The newest interior in this old block has been installed next door to Miller's Ice Cream Parlor to make way for a country crafts gift emporium to be known as 'Peddler's Path'. Pine floors, embossed plaster trim and finely detailed woodwork tie the interior to its authentic and original exterior in a graceful and gracious manner.

Although they were not in place for this year's Heritage Festival, the shop will easily be ready for the second peak of the season: The Victorian Holiday, which begins in November and continues through Christmas.

Stop in and see the crew applying the final touches to a great new inside job.

Miller's ICE CREAM

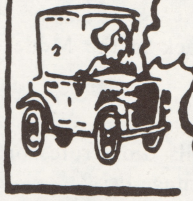
42 E. Cross Ypsilanti, Michigan

485-7548

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Come in and enjoy your first cone of the season ! ! !

Always a Double Dip Special for 75¢



CITY RADIATOR

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Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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